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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/827,048	04/05/01	CUTLER	S CUTLP0101USA

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MMC2/0620

EXAMINER

GILMAN, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED:

06/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,048

Applicant(s)

CUTLER ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 21 and 23-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 21, 23-26 and 30-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 27-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the guide means (an elongate rib) must be shown or the feature is canceled from claims 30-32. No new matter should be entered.

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 33, in line 2, a word "contact" is misspelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In lines 1-2, the claim recites "...said release hole extends through said elongate rib formed in said contact section...". This limitation contradicts the specification and other claims. According to the specification (Fig. 1, for example), the opening for the second conductor is located not in the contact section but in the intermediate section (claim 27).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 21, 23, 24, 26, 33- 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gelati.

With regard to claim 21, Gelati (US Pat. No. 4,768,976) discloses a locking connector comprising:

electrical contact component (Fig. 2) electrically interengaged with a first conductor (5), said contact component including a contact section, and an opening that receives a second conductor (5);

at least one axially spaced spring locking clips ( 8) arranged to face away from said opening such that said clip is sequentially and resiliently opened by introducing the second conductor through said opening, said clip having grip locking end portions that are spring biased to grip the second conductor in electrical interengagement with said contact portion, while resisting disengagement of the second conductor from said contact portion

a release hole (12) formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening for receiving a spring releasing element (15).

With regard to claims 23, 26, and 38, Gelati (US Pat. No. 4,768,976) discloses a locking connector comprising:

an electrical contact component including a contact section and an opening that receives a second conductor;

at least one electrically-conductive spring locking clip (8) and  
a release hole (12) formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening .

With regard to claim 24, Gelati discloses a grip locking end portion in alignment with said opening.

With regard to claims 33 and 34, Gelati discloses an enclosure (1) accommodating the contact component.

With regard to claim 35, Gelati discloses openings on the opposite ends of the contact component.

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and an additional spring locking clip (8").

With regard to claim 36, Gelati discloses another release hole (12").

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 23, 24, 26, 33, 34, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanishi et al in view of Gelati.

With regard to claims 23 and 26, Tanishi (US Pat. No. 4,566, 748) discloses (Fig. 7) a locking connector comprising:

an electrical contact component (221) including a contact section and an opening that receives a second conductor (13) ;

at least one electrically-conductive spring locking clip (231).

Tanishi et al do not disclose a release hole formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening.

Gelati disclose a release hole (12) formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Tanishi et al device with a release hole formed through said contact section, as taught by Gelati , to conveniently handle inserting and removing the second conductor using a tool.

With regard to claim 24, Tanishi et al when modified by Gelati discloses (Tanishi et al) a grip locking end portion in alignment with said opening.

With regard to claims 30-32, Tanishi et al when modified by Gelati discloses (Tanishi et al) an guide elongate rib (226).

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With regard to claims 33, 34, and 37, Tanishi et al when modified by Gelati discloses (Tanishi et al) an enclosure (211, 241) accommodating the contact component, said enclosure includes a generally rectilinear component having an inlet (in 241) and a rib (212 or 224) that peripherally surround said rectilinear component.

1. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelati in view of Kubota et al.

Gelati discloses all of the limitations except for the grip locking end portion is transversely curved.

Kubota et al (US Pat. No. 4,673,232) disclose (Fig. 1 or 7) the grip locking end portion (1a) is transversely curved.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the Gelati's grip locking end portion transversely curved, as taught by Kubota et al , to make the end portion correspondent to the configuration of the second conductor.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 27-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the specific configuration of the contact component with the opening in the intermediate section.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m - 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where

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this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7322 for regular communications and (703) 308-7322 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

AG  
June 15, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Paumen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Paumen  
Primary Examiner